

Memo to Col. G. J. Jolly

July 8, 1942

I don't think it is possible to diagnose Col. Grombach's activities without being personal, since ^{the} ~~that~~ very characteristics of the man affects his work. I should like to point out, however, in this rather general memorandum that my observations are cursory.

It is my understanding that the Office of Strategic Services obtained the services of Lt. Col. Grombach from U. I. S. on a part-time loan basis. There is no question about it - he has accomplished a great deal in a short space of time.

The FBI personnel seem to be generally capable and the morale is good. Much of this is due to Mrs. Wink. The station itself is operated on a fulsome scale and the equipment is first class in every way. There are extravagances which, in my opinion, could have been avoided because there has been no limitation to the scope of the venture. Whether it is adequate to do the job of work that we think must be accomplished is a question to be discussed with our acting chief engineer, Lt. Simpson. The guard system seems to be excellent and there is a military air to the place which is important.

I question the choice of Mr. Mandela as Assistant Director, both from the standpoint of his personality and his duties as Chief of the Cryptographic Department. I do not think he has executive ability.

As to the Colonel, it is difficult to believe that an expert in so many fields could be rolled up into one man. His work, if he

continues at all, must be narrowed down and ~~continuously~~ ^{assiduously checked.} watched. He speaks freely on every subject from duelling, football, and boxing to engineering, cryptographs, code, sun spots and rhomboids. ~~there is no question but that he has had a checked career.~~

As to Col. Grombach's engineering ability, from my own checks I can find no record of his work in this field, except in the recording end. In setting up the engineering activities of HQ he has leaned heavily on the HEC staff and his own chief. That, of course, is good. In the matter of code ^{and cipher} work he claims to be an expert of long standing. I have no doubt but that he has experimented along these lines.

He claims to be fully familiar with the Gestapo methods, which I cannot help but doubt. His mind is fired with the idea of building a system which can obtain enemy information of such importance to be of direct assistance in winning the war.

The main reason I have touched on his personal side is the tendency on the part of the Colonel to build up an organization which will be wider in scope than contemplated or necessary to this ^{section.} branch. In doing so his tendency is toward including persons of his own acquaintance. We know the case of his wife; he is now trying to clear Oliver Lloyd, the husband of his secretary, to work in the plant. Lloyd might be a good man, but obviously should be used elsewhere. Having the free run of the plant was what Grombach called a Free Frenchman, in civilian ^{a friend and} clothes.

14. Colonel Groves has already talked to me about getting a man by the name of Donald Alarm in this picture. Alarm was the former owner of the Station known as WICA in New York. This man should (Col. G.) not have anything to do with our operations in any capacity. He wants and is trying to clear a man on the West Coast, whose name I have forgotten, for head of the operation there. He describes him as an old friend, married to one of the Dorrance girls, with whom he stayed when he was on the Coast.

That his methods of getting things have enabled us to save a great deal of time, there is no question, but from all I can gather in New York, this resulted in his making enemies with the branches of the service that we must, I am sure, necessarily deal with in the most co-operative way.

I admired his frankness in stating clearly that he wanted my job and hoped to make the thing that he was doing big enough and wide enough in scope to head it up by making himself invaluable. He frankly admitted that because of the difference in our ranks he was embarrassed, and that it was discouraging to say the least that I was appointed to head up FBI.

The fact that he threatens to quit I take no stock in. I am sure he will stay in any capacity if we want him. Being able to have the authority to run something, even if it is on a smaller scale, is to his liking. The fact that this work requires his being 2 or 3 days in New York a week is also helpful. He had hoped to make his operations encompass secret intelligence, all engineering, all development, all

communications on a world wide basis. He does not want to be restricted in any way. He feels that because of the work accomplished he is entitled to an official commendation — this I should like to discuss with you.

Information to G 2.